

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

INT-08 COME-00 INR-10 FDRE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /149 W

----- 100626

P R 291545Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LOME

SECSTATE WASHDC 6118

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ROME FOR FODAG; LAGOS FOR SNYDER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJECT: SAHEL R/R: PORT-NIGER MOVEMENTS

REFS: A) NIAMEY 1274; B) NIAMEY 1156;

C) LAGOS 3583; D) COTONOU 0670;

E) STATE 074267

1. WE KEPT APPOINTMENT MADE FOR SNYDER WITH SACOTRA
DIRECTOR KOFFI APRIL 27. LATTER GAVE FOLLOWING INFORMA-
TION ON GRAIN MOVEMENTS:

(A) STILL IN PORT: 100 TONS SORGHUM ARRIVED APRIL

4, EX-DELTA PARAGUAY. ALL OTHER SORGHUM SHIPMENTS
HAVE CLEARED PORT AND BEEN SHIPPED NIAMEY. ACCORDING
KOFFI, THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PROBLEMS WITH SPACE ON
OCDN TRAINS TO PARAKOU, WHICH ARE CARRYING FERTILIZER
NORTH FOR PLANTING SEASON.

(B) KOFFI HAS NO INFO ON CMS SHIPMENT FOR UNICEF
SINCE SOCOPAO IS FORWARDING AGENT FOR THAT AGENCY.

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2. RE REFTEL (B), KOFFI CONFIRMS PRESENT OCDN SHIPPING CAPACITY WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR'S LEVEL DUE PURCHASE NEW FREIGHT CARS. OCDN PRESENTLY SENDING TWO TRAINS/DAY TO PARAKOU AND THIRD COULD BE ADDED IF NEEDED. RE REFTEL (E), PARA (C), KOFFI BELIEVED REASONABLE DRY SEASON ESTIMATE TRANSIT TIME COTONOU-GAO ROUTE IS FOUR DAYS. COULD NOT SPECIFY RAINY SEASON ESTIMATE, BUT FELT IT WOULD BE LESS THAN TWO WEEKS. ALSO RECONFIRMED SACOTRA AND COTONOU PORT FACILITIES ADEQUATE TO HANDLE 2500 MT MORE PER MONTH FOR COTONOU-GAO SHIPMENTS. KOFFI FELT THAT PORT WORKERS AND OCDN WOULD COOPERATE TO HANDLE INCREASED SHIPMENTS, AND CITED EXAMPLE OF 1000 MT EX-DEL ORO WHICH WERE OFF-LOADED AND SHIPPED WITHIN 48 HOURS.

3. OCDN DIRECTOR DO REGO PLANS TRAVEL BAMAKO TO RECONFIRM AVAILABILITY OF FUEL FOR RETURN TRIP OF TRUCK CONVOY TO PARAKOU. IF NEEDED, KOFFI SAID, TANKER TRUCKS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN CONVOY. HOWEVER, KOFFI FORESAW LITTLE PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA SINCE ALL FUEL SUPPLIES FOR VI REGION MALI ARE SHIPPED FROM COTONOU AND HE EXPECTS MALIANS TO COOPERATE IN GRAIN SHIPMENT MOVEMENTS.

4. IF SHORTAGE TRUCKING CAPACITY ARISES, KOFFI MENTIONED POSSIBILITY LEASING TRUCKS FROM TAW LEASING BRANCH IN TOGO. HOWEVER, THEIR RATES RECENTLY QUOTED FOR LOME-OUAGA RUN WERE 33 PERCENT ABOVE GOING MARKET PRICES AND THEY ARE THEREFORE TO BE CONSIDERED ONLY AS LAST RESORT.

5. AWAITING FINAL WORD SCHEDULING SNYDER VISIT.
MCNAMARA

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Message Attributes

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